

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

SAJ-01 BIB-01 AGR-05 /109 W
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R 281508Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6938

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AEMBASSY BUDAPEST 3100

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11937

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, UR, RO, COMECON

SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN DEMANDS FOR SOVIET RAW MATERIALS APPEAR
CONFIRMED

REF: MOSCOW 11759

1. SUMMARY: DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH U.K. OFFICER,
ROMANIAN EMBOFF DESCRIBED THE MID-JULY EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING OF THE SOVIET-ROMANIAN MIXED COMMISSION AS ONE IN
WHICH VIRTUALLY NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED, AND HE SAID MORE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE THE NEXT
"REGULAR" SESSION IN OCTOBER. ROMANIANS PUT FORWARD REQUESTS
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FOR MORE FUEL AND RAW MATERIALS BUT SOVIETS DID NOT

AGREE TO SSUPPLY THEM. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON A POSSIBLE NEW FIVE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT EITHER. SURPRISINGLY, SOVIETS DID DID NOT ATTEMPT TO LOWER THE PRICES THEY NOW PAY ROMANIA FOR FOOD EXPORTS. ROMANIAN AGATT SAID THAT SOVIETS APPARENTLY EXPECT TO BE EXPORTING SUCH FOODS BY 1980 AND WOULD THEN BENEFIT FROM THEIR RELATIVELY HIGH PRICES. END SUMMARY.

2. U.K. FIRST SECRETARY LONGRIGG RECENTLY CALLED ON ROMANIAN FIRST SECRETARY ENE (PROTECT BOTH) TO DISCUSS THE RECENT ROMANIAN-SOVIET MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING (REFTEL). ENE CONFIRMED THAT THE MEETING HAD PRODUCED NO AGREEMENTS ON THE MAJOR ISSUES OF RAW MATERIALS AND FUEL; THE ROMANIANS HAD PUT FORWARD REQUESTS FOR INCREASED SUPPLIES BUT THE SOVIETS WERE HAVING NONE OF IT. TWITTED ABOUT THE "EXTRAORDINARIENESS" OF THE RECENT MEETING, ENE DWELT ON THE FACT THAT VIRTUALLY NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED AND SAID THAT MORE EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE THE NEXT "REGULAR" SESSION OF THE COMMISSION, SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER IN BUCHAREST.

3. THE SESSION ALSO DID NOT AGREE ON A POSSIBLE NEW FIVE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT. PRESUMABLY, PRICES CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM AREA, BUT, IN A SOMEWHAT SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT, THE SOVIETS DID NOT ATTEMPT AT THIS MEETING TO LOWER THE PRICES WHICH THE ROMANIANS CHARGE FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, AND IN PARTICULAR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, ACCORDING TO THE ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE. THE REASON, HE SUGGESTED TO LONGRIGG, IS THAT THE SOVIETS HOPE TO BE EXPORTING A NUMBER OF SIMILAR FOOD ITEMS BY 1980 AND SEE VALUE IN LEAVING PRICES AT PRESENT LEVELS IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM LATER EXPORT EARNINGS.

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